

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recognized the winners of the 2013 Illinois Coal Calendar contest during an award ceremony held at the Executive Mansion on May 11, 2012. Twenty-five students from across Illinois created posters and essays to highlight the value of coal resources to the state. The winning posters and essays will be featured in the upcoming 2013 Illinois Coal Calendar, which will be used by DCEO as an education and public awareness tool showing how coal and coal-based products play a fundamental role in the economic prosperity of the state.

The contest for the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the Coal Calendar attracted posters and essays from nearly 1,000 students in grades five through eight whose teachers incorporated lessons on the value of coal resources to Illinois, the geology and science of coal and how coal is mined and used. Participants represented schools from throughout Illinois, ranging from Orland Park in the Chicago area, to Galatia in southern Illinois. The entries were judged by panels made up of artists, teachers, personnel from Illinois coal producers and the staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

“The entries we received for this year’s Coal Calendar contest reflect great talent and hard work by all of the students, which made the decision to select finalists difficult,” DCEO Acting Director David Vaught said. “In addition to their experience in learning about Illinois coal, the students also helped us get the word out that Illinois coal is a valuable asset to the state. This effort is part of our ongoing work to promote the broader use of Illinois coal and further the advancement of clean-coal technology as an integral part of the nation's future mix of energy sources.”

The top-ranked poster and essay earned their young artist and author \$100 each and the other poster and essay winners each were awarded \$50 from the Illinois Coal Association. The overall winning poster entry will be featured on the cover of the calendar and the overall winning essay entry will have special recognition in the calendar.

The calendar’s cover features a colorful drawing entitled “Illinois Coal: the Power Starts Here,” by Hanna Jones, at 8th grader at Sesser-Valier Junior High School in Franklin County. Her classmate, Dakota Miller, won best overall essay for his work, titled, “Coal Mining.” Twelve other posters, with clever titles such as “Life’s a Lump of Coal...Dig It!”, “Illinois Coal Lighting the Way for the U.S.A.” and “Coal Is the Key,” highlight each month. The 12 essays are in the center section of the calendar.

Copies of the 2013 Coal Calendar will be available fall 2012. To order a calendar, write to Linda Dunbar at DCEO’s Office of Coal Development, 500 E. Monroe Street, Springfield, IL 62701 or call 217-558-2648.

The following is a list of this year’s winners:

<b>Essay Winner</b>	<b>School/Town</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Kimmie Blaney	Jefferson Middle School-Pana CUSD #8, Tower Hill, IL	6	Rosilyn Schutt
Ethan Deaton	Rotolo Middle School, Batavia, IL	6	Kristy Giesen
Tommy Harris	Rotolo Middle School, Batavia, IL	6	Kristy Giesen
Colton Jagers	Geneseo Middle School, Geneseo, IL	8	Jeanne Anderson
Casey Jensen	Century Junior High School, Orland Park, IL	7	Lisa Morrey
Natalie Kirkbridge	Jefferson Middle School-Pana CUSD #8, Tower Hill, IL	6	Rosilyn Schutt
Dakota Miller	Sesser-Valier Junior High School, Sesser, IL	8	Holly Dunderdale
Jackson Patterson	Rotolo Middle School, Batavia, IL	6	Jeffrey Thomas
Thomas Prosser	Rotolo Middle School, Batavia, IL	6	Dee Mallie
Julissa Quinonez	Rochelle Middle School, Rochelle, IL	8	Michaelle Jaeger
Karley Ratliff	Galatia Elementary School, Galatia, IL	5	Cindy Fry
Nate Thomas	Traughber Junior High, Oswego, IL	6	Jeffrey Thomas

<b>Poster Winner</b>	<b>School/Town</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Wendy Allen	Pleasant Valley School, Peoria, IL	5	Carole Hanlon
Timothy Anderson	Pleasant Valley School, Peoria, IL	6	Carole Hanlon
Timmy Behland	Homer Junior High School, Homer Glen, IL	7	Judy Brunzelle
Elija Benja	Pleasant Valley School, Peoria, IL	6	Carole Hanlon
Ashlynn Butrovich	Smithton School, Smithton, IL	8	Kim Carter
Tristian Canfield	Pleasant Valley School, Peoria, IL	5	Carole Hanlon
Carlee Dulfer	Century Junior High School, Orland Park, IL	7	Lisa Morrey
Ilirijana Dzeladini	Rochelle Middle School, Rochelle, IL	8	Michaelle Jaeger
Hannah Jones	Sesser-Valier Junior High School, Sesser, IL	8	Holly Dunderdale
Tyler O'Rear	Jefferson Middle School-Pana CUSD #8, Tower Hill, IL	6	Rosilyn Schutt
Tianna Starks	Pleasant Valley School, Peoria, IL	5	Carole Hanlon
Jake Styve	Sesser-Valier Junior High School, Sesser, IL	8	Holly Dunderdale